

Kitzmiller has participated in multiple overseas deployments including Operation Northern Watch (Macedonia), Operation Southern Watch (Saudi Arabia), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Kuwait, Baghdad, and twice in Balad), and Operation Enduring Freedom. She also is very active improving her local community and volunteers with the Tennessee Drug Task Force Team and YMCA, serving as a drill instructor during summer camps for troubled youth. She has spent countless hours volunteering with Military Kids Support Programs and Homeless Veterans Associations helping veterans find shelter and employment.

Master Sgt. Kitzmiller hails from Springfield, Tenn., and is currently studying at Austin Peay State University working toward her bachelor's degree. She attended Dickson County High School and left for Navy basic training 10 days after graduation. Upon discharge 4 years later, she joined the Army Reserve, served in several units before transferring to the Tennessee Army National Guard, and then finally to the State's Air National Guard. In December 2005, she was selected as a First Sergeant, fulfilling a dream to follow in her father's footsteps.

Tennessee is very proud of the accomplishments and service of Master Sgt. Lorene Kitzmiller and I proudly recognize her today in the U.S. House of Representatives. Individuals like Kitzmiller continue to give the United States military a reputation of excellence and commitment to their State and their Nation while at home or deployed around the world. On behalf of the great State of Tennessee, I honor Master Sgt. Lorene Kitzmiller for her accomplishments and dedication to Tennessee and the United States of America.

RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN ABSENTEE VOTING

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I had the privilege of serving 8 years as Michigan's Secretary of State. In that job, one of my key responsibilities was to serve as the state's Chief Elections Officer. During my tenure, we made great strides in improving the accuracy and security of the elections system in our state.

However, as any former or current Secretary of State can tell you, one of the greatest challenges you have is convincing non-voters—those who are eligible to vote, and may be registered, but fail to participate in the electoral process. One of the common challenges in changing the views of these citizens is countering the belief that the system doesn't work either due to corruption or negligence or some other issue. So, these citizens fail to exercise their Constitutionally-given rights to choose their government, and they don't vote.

As elected officials, we need to take whatever measures we can to increase the public's confidence in the voting system. One of the greatest achievements of my tenure as Secretary of State was the creation of the Qualified Voter File, which provided for easy determination of who is and is not a registered voter. In fact, the Ford-Carter Commission on Federal Election Reform cited Michigan as a national model in this area. This device was

critical to ensuring that we have full voter participation and that no one is needlessly disenfranchised.

Absentee ballots, historically, have been an area that has contributed to this perception. Many have seen these ballots as ripe for corruption and many voters are unsure what happens with their ballots after they mail them in. The bill we are considering today will go a long way towards correcting these perceptions.

H.R. 2510, the Absentee Ballot Track Receive and Confirm Act, authorizes grants to states that choose to establish procedures to track absentee mail-in ballots. These systems would allow voters to find out for themselves the status of their absentee ballot. Voters will now be able to determine when their ballot should arrive, if the elections office received it and whether it was counted.

Additionally, this measure protects the secrecy of the ballot by only marking the outside ballot envelopes. No other information about the voter or how that vote was cast will be recorded.

The right to vote is one of the most cherished rights that we have as citizens. This measure will reduce the potential for fraud and restore confidence in absentee voting among the public. Furthermore, absentee voters will gain the knowledge that their vote has been counted and they are not being disenfranchised through the process.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

INTRODUCING HEALTH FREEDOM LEGISLATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce two pieces of legislation restoring the First Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements. The first bill, the Health Freedom Act, codifies the First Amendment by ending the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s efforts to censor truthful health claims. The second bill, the Freedom of Health Speech Act, codifies the First and Fifth Amendment by requiring the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to prove that health claims are false before it takes action to stop manufacturers and marketers from making the claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in treating diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell an unapproved and unlawful drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for four years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects.

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures; and that vitamin D may reduce the risk of osteoporosis, hypertension, and cancer.

The Health Freedom Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, numerous federal courts, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment prohibition on prior restraint. Specifically, the Health Freedom Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements. The Health Freedom Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease. The FDA has proven that it cannot be trusted to protect consumers' rights to make informed choices. It is time for Congress to stop the FDA from censoring truthful health information.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional constitutional standards, the federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC shifted the burden of proof to industry. The FTC presumes health advertising is false and compels private parties to prove the ads (and everything the regulators say the ads imply) to be true to a near conclusive degree. This violation of the First and Fifth Amendments is harming consumers' by blocking innovation in the health foods and dietary supplement marketplace.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act requires that the government actually prove that speech is false before the FTC acts against the speaker. This is how it should be in a free society where information flows freely in order to foster the continuous improvement that benefits us all. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes before the FTC censors the claim and imposes other punishments.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for